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**SPEECH OF HIS  
EXCELLENCY SIGNOR  
ANTONIO SALANDRA  
IN THE CAPITOL OF ROME  
JUNE 2, 1915, IN REPLY *to the* EMPEROR OF  
AUSTRIA *and the* GERMAN CHANCELLOR**

**Translated, with an Introductory Note,**

***By* THOMAS OKEY**

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Signor Antonio Salandra, Prime Minister of Italy, is, like so many Italians who have risen to political eminence, a ripe and profound scholar as well as a renowned statesman. Born at Troia, in the south of Italy, on August 31, 1853, he took a high degree at the University of Naples, and subsequently became professor of Administrative Law in the city of Rome. He sits in the Chamber as deputy for Lucera.

Before succeeding to the Premiership last year, Signor Salandra had served his country in many capacities, and notably as Minister of Finance. He is an officer of the Royal Order of S. Maurizio and of the Legion of Honour, and holds the gold medal conferred for distinguished public service. Among his publications are Treatises on Administrative Justice and on Divorce and many studies in

various periodicals on financial, political, economic, legal, and historical questions. Signor Salandra has also translated Herbert Spencer's Principles of Sociology which is published in the *Biblioteca dell' Economista*.

The translation is made from the broadsheet version of the speech issued for gratuitous distribution by the Italian Government.

## Speech of His Excellency Signor Antonio Salandra

ROME, *June 2, 1915.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*—I have most willingly accepted the invitation to take part in this gathering in order to demonstrate that the task of national solidarity to which the Roman Committee has girded itself is held to be of the highest importance by the Government. We hope that similar beneficent associations of personal, material, and moral forces may be organized in every commune of the nation and maintained with burning enthusiasm and with enduring and imperturbable constancy.

We have entered upon a war, greater than any other recorded in history, in order to safeguard the oldest and loftiest aspirations, the most vital interests, of our country—a war which seizes and draws into its vortex not only combatants but all those who remain at home. No one can stand aside. He who gives not

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the might of his arm to his country must give his mind, his possessions, his heart; he must be prepared for renunciation, for self-sacrifice (cheers); a whole uplifting, a whole purification of a people's soul must be aimed at and achieved. It behoves those who remain behind so to labour that our national life may run its course uninterrupted; that families who lose their support may be succoured in every way; that hearts may be kept high and brave, ready for keenest joy or to suffer cruellest pain, prepared to face all things, but confident of final victory; and this because our cause is just and our war a holy war. (Loud cheers.)

Italians of every calling in life must not only have, as indeed they have wondrously proved themselves to have, a spontaneous, instinctive, and profound sense of the justice of our cause and the holiness of our war; they must have also a rational conviction. And the whole civilized world must be persuaded of it. (Hear, hear.)

### THE ENEMY'S RAGE

To Italy, therefore, and to the civilized world I now address myself, and I will demonstrate,



not with violent words, but with precise facts and with unimpeachable documents, how the fury of our enemies has vainly sought to diminish the lofty moral and political dignity of the cause which our arms shall make prevail. (Cheers.) I will speak with that calm serenity of which the King of Italy has given so noble an example (loud cheers and cries of "Long live the King!") when he called you, soldiers on land and sea, to arms. I will speak as I ought with all the respect due to my exalted position and to the place where I stand. (Cheers.) I can afford to pass by the insults inscribed in imperial, royal, and arch-ducal proclamations; for, since I am speaking from the Capitol and in this solemn hour do represent the People and the Government of Italy, I, a modest burgess, feel myself nobler far than the Head of the Hapsburgs. (Cries of Bravo! and loud cheers.)

The commonplace statesmen who, with lighthearted rashness, have applied the incendiary torch to the whole of Europe and to their own homes, have blundered in all their calculations; and now that they have become aware of their colossal mistake they have given vent to their rage in brutal words

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against Italy and against her Government, with the evident object of securing the forgiveness of their fellow-citizens by intoxicating them with the ferocious visions of hatred and bloodshed. (Bravo!) The Chancellor of the German Empire has said he was filled, not with hatred, but with anger. And very truly he spoke, since he reasoned ill, as one usually does in an access of rage. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I could not, even if I would, imitate their language. An atavistic reversion to primitive barbarism is more difficult to us, Italians, who are twenty centuries farther removed from it. (Bravo!)

### AN ACT OF CRIMINAL FOLLY

But let us have done with words; let us deal with facts and reasons. The fundamental argument of the statesmen of Central Europe is summed up in the two words "treachery and surprise" addressed to Italy—treachery and surprise towards her faithful allies.

It would be easy enough to ask if a man had any right to speak of alliances and of respect for Treaties who, representing with

far less genius but with equal indifference to moral considerations, the traditions of Frederick the Great and Prince Bismarck, has dared to proclaim that necessity knows no law and has consented to his country's trampling underfoot, burning and burying in the depths of the ocean every document and every civilized practice of public international law. (Cheers.) But this would be a too facile and prejudicial argument. Let us rather calmly examine the facts and see if our allies have any right to say they have been betrayed and surprised by us.

Our aspirations had been known for a long time, our judgment known on the act of criminal madness by which they have convulsed the whole world and robbed the alliance of its essential reason for existence. The Green Book which has been prepared by Sidney Sonnino with whom, after thirty years of friendship, it has been the pride of my life to be bound by ties of absolute agreement in this solemn hour (Cries of "Long live Sonnino!") the Green Book, which, more than any other collection of diplomatic documents, has penetrated into the very life, the very conscience of our People, proves how

the long, long, weary, painful, futile negotiations dragged on from December to May.

It is not true, as astute attempts are being made to show, that the Ministry which was reconstituted last November changed the direction of our international policy. The Italian Government, whose line of conduct has never changed—and I am pleased to say this in honour of the memory of my illustrious friend and colleague<sup>1</sup> whose only regret as he lay at death's door was not to have seen the day, so ardently presaged by him, of our national vindication—the Italian Government, I say, severely condemned the aggression of Austria against Serbia the very moment it came within its knowledge; and it foresaw the consequences which those who had with such blindness premeditated the blow had failed to foresee. Here are the proofs. I will read the very words, since we are dealing with documents.

#### **NEW DOCUMENTS**

On July 25th the Marquis of San Giuliano telegraphed to the Duke of Avarna as follows:—

<sup>1</sup> The Marquis of San Giuliano.

"To-day we three, the Prime Minister, von Flotow, and myself, have had a long conversation which I summarize for the personal guidance of your Excellency.

Salandra and myself made it quite clear to the [Austrian] Ambassador that Austria could have no right, according to the spirit of the Treaty of the Triple Alliance, to act as she has done at Belgrade without a previous understanding with her allies. Austria, in fact, by reason of the tone in which her Note is drawn up, and by reason of the demands she has made, which demands—while they are of little effect against the Pan-Serbian peril, are deeply offensive to Serbia and indirectly to Russia—have clearly proved that she intends to provoke a war. We therefore told von Flotow that in consequence of such a manner of proceeding on the part of Austria and by reason of the defensive and conservative character of the Triple Alliance, Italy is under no obligation to come to the aid of Austria in the event of this action of hers involving her in a war with Russia; since any European war whatsoever would in this event be the result of a provocative and aggressive act on the part of Austria."

Shortly after, on July 27th and 28th, we

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raised in clear and precise terms at Berlin and Vienna the question of the cession of the Italian provinces of Austria, and we declared that if adequate compensations were not obtained—I am reading the actual words—“*The Triple Alliance would be irreparably broken.*” (Loud cheers.)

The impartial historian will say that Austria, having found Italy in July 1913 and in October of the same year hostile to her aggressive designs against Serbia, attempted last summer, in agreement with Germany, to achieve her purpose by way of surprise and of an accomplished fact. That the abominable crime of Sarajevo was exploited as a pretext a month after its perpetration is proved by Austria's refusal to accept the proffered submission of Serbia.

### NO PLEDGE BY AUSTRIA

Nor at the outbreak of the conflagration would Austria have been satisfied with the unconditional acceptance of the ultimatum. On July 31, 1914, Count Berchtold informed our Ambassador that “*even if mediation had been possible it could not have interrupted the*

*hostilities already engaged in with Serbia."* This was the mediation for which England and Italy were striving. In any event Count Berchtold was not disposed to accept any mediation which aimed at attenuating the conditions laid down in the Austro-Hungarian Note—conditions which naturally enough might have been increased at the conclusion of the war. On the other hand, if Serbia meanwhile had decided unconditionally to accept the above-mentioned Note and had declared herself ready to agree to the terms forced upon her "*that would not have induced the Imperial and Royal Government of Austria-Hungary to cease hostilities.*"

It is not true that Austria pledged herself, as the Hungarian Prime Minister asserted, not to undertake any acquisitions of territory at the expense of Serbia, who, moreover, by accepting the conditions imposed on her, would have become a vassal State. On July 30th the [Austrian] Ambassador Merey used the following words to the Marquis of San Giuliano: "*Austria cannot make a binding declaration in regard to this matter because she is unable to foresee if during the course of the war she may not be obliged, against her will, to retain Serbian territories.*" (Murmurs.) And on July

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29th Count Berchtold made the Duke of Avarna understand "*that he was not disposed to pledge himself in any way as to what he had said to him concerning the eventual conduct of Austria in the case of a conflict with Serbia.*"

### WHERE IS THE TREACHERY ?

Where, then, is the treachery, where the iniquity, where the surprise if, after nine months of vain efforts to arrive at an honourable understanding which should recognize in equitable measure our rights and safeguard our interests, we have now resumed our liberty of action and have taken such measures as the interests of our country have counselled us to take? The fact is both Austria and Germany believed up to the last days that they had to do with an Italy, unwarlike and clamorous, but feeble of purpose, capable of attempting to blackmail, but never of enforcing her good right by arms—with an Italy that might be paralysed by the expenditure of a few millions, by shameful back-stair manœuvres, and by insinuating themselves between the country and the Government. (Loud cheers.)

Sovereigns and Foreign Ministers have



spoken of the Alliance which we have denounced after they themselves had practically broken it, as if it were a Providence under whose broad encircling wings Italy has been able to exist so many years; has developed her economic resources; has increased her territories. I will not deny—it would be folly to do so—the benefits of the Alliance; benefits, however, which have not been all on one side, but have been common to all the contracting Powers and probably not to us more than to the others. Otherwise would the Central Empires have desired and renewed the Alliance? Was Prince Bismarck a sentimental lover enamoured of the fair land where the orange blooms? And were the princes and statesmen of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy ever at any time tenderly disposed towards us?

Let us examine, in the light of precise dates and actual facts, how the Alliance has worked in these last years, let us understand its true spirit and how it has contributed to our sole territorial expansion—the Libyan enterprise. (Murmurs.)

## AUSTRIA WAS PREPARED

The continual distrust, the aggressive intentions of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy towards her ally are notorious. They result from authentic proofs. General Conrad, the Chief of the Staff, has always maintained *"that war with Italy was inevitable, either because of the unredeemed provinces or through Italy's jealousy with regard to every Austrian undertaking in the Balkans and in the Eastern Mediterranean."* And elsewhere: *"Italy's desire is to extend her boundaries the moment she is in a position to do so; in the meantime she opposes all our undertakings in the Balkans. It follows therefore that we must strike at her in order to have our hands free."* And he deplored that Italy had not been attacked as early as 1907. (Murmurs.) The Austrian Foreign Minister himself acknowledged that *"the opinion was general among the military party that the kingdom of Italy must be reduced in a military sense, because from Italy came that force of attraction for the Italian provinces of the Empire which endangers our territorial integrity. Therefore if we defeated Italy and compassed her political*

*annihilation all the hopes of the Irredentist party would be crushed. In the meantime, and until the war (which for reasons of reciprocal developments of military strength in the two States ought to be hastened on by every possible means) we must oppress the Italian provinces with rigorous penalties and oppose every demand for facilities for Italian culture."*

It is evident from these sentiments with how much sincerity and good faith the question of the Italian University<sup>1</sup> has dragged on through so many years. (Hear, hear.) And now let us see how our allies have helped us in the acquisition of Libya. I will deal with nothing that cannot be proved by reference to documents.

#### THE MENACES IN 1911

The brilliant operations initiated by the Duke of the Abruzzi against the Turkish torpedo boats at Prevesa were stopped by

<sup>1</sup> The question of the establishment of an Italian University which, according to the Austrian Constitution ought to have been provided at Trieste—an old bone of contention between the two Governments.

Austria in a harsh and absolute manner. Count Aerenthal informed our Ambassador at Vienna on October 1, 1911, that our operations had made a painful impression on him, and it was impossible to allow them to continue; it was urgently necessary that they should be made an end of and that orders should be given to prevent any renewal of them either in the Adriatic or Ionian waters. On the morrow the German Ambassador at Vienna, in a still more threatening manner, confidentially informed our Ambassador that Count Aerenthal had begged him to telegraph to Rome and make the Italian Government understand that if its naval operations continued in the Adriatic and in the Ionian seas it would have to deal direct with Austria-Hungary. (Murmurs.)

And not only in the Adriatic and in the Ionian seas were our actions paralysed. On November 5th Count Aerenthal informed the Duke of Avarna that it had come to his knowledge that some Italian warships had been reported in the vicinity of Salonica, where they had proceeded to use their electric searchlights. (Laughter.) He declared "that any hostile action of ours on the Ottoman coasts

of European Turkey or on the islands of the Ægean could not be permitted either by Austria-Hungary or by Germany, since such action would be contrary to the Treaty of the Triple Alliance."

In March 1912 Count Berchtold, who in the meantime had succeeded to Count Aerenthal, declared to the German Ambassador at Vienna that "*so far as regarded our operations against the Ottoman European coasts and the islands of the Ægean he maintained Count Aerenthal's point of view, according to which those operations were considered by the Imperial and Royal Government to be contrary to the engagements we had made under Article VII of the Treaty of the Triple Alliance.*" As for our operations in the Dardanelles, he considered them opposed to: (1) The promise made by us not to proceed to any act which might endanger the *status quo* in the Balkans. (2) The very spirit of the Treaty which was based on the maintenance of the *status quo*.

Moreover, when our fleet was bombarded by the forts of Kum Kalessi at the mouth of the Dardanelles, and replied by inflicting damage on those forts, Count Berchtold complained of what had happened, and considered it in

opposition to the promises we had made. He declared that "*if the Italian Government desired to resume its liberty of action the Imperial and Royal Government was prepared to do the like.*" (Murmurs.) He added that he could not allow us to undertake similar operations in future or any action whatsoever in opposition to his point of view. And thus our contemplated occupation of Chios was prevented.

#### TARDY CONCESSIONS

It is not necessary to emphasize how many Italian soldiers' lives and how many millions of treasure have been sacrificed by this persistent impediment placed in the way of every decisive action of ours against Turkey. (Hear, hear.) She knew she was protected by our allies from every attack on her vital parts. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

Another reproach has been bitterly made against us—the reproach that we were not contented with the prodigious concessions that were offered to us in these last days. But it is permissible to ask, Were those concessions offered in good faith? (Laughter and cheers.) Our suspicions are roused on reading the latest

documents. The Emperor Francis Joseph has said that Italy was casting greedy eyes towards the patrimony of his House. The Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg has said that these concessions were intended "*to purchase our neutrality.*"<sup>1</sup> So now, gentlemen, applaud us for not having accepted them. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.)

But let us turn our attention to the substance of these things. These concessions, even if we accept the last belated edition which reached the Foreign Minister's hands and mine after they had been in the hands of politicians and journalists, hither and thither (loud cheers, and cries of "Long live Salandra!")—these belated concessions which, even if accepted as made in good faith, respond in no way to the aims and objects which Italian policy must have in view.

These aims and objects may be reduced to three: (1) The defence of Italianism, our first and greatest duty. (2) A secure military frontier which shall replace that which was imposed on us in 1866, and by which all the gates of Italy are open to our enemies. (3) A

<sup>1</sup> Thus in the broadsheet version; the edition published by the *Tipografia del Senato* reads "*fidelity.*"

less dangerous strategical position in the Adriatic, less unfortunate than that whose effects we have witnessed during the past days.

#### THE REFUSALS

All those advantages, so essential to us, were practically refused. The offer of the Trentino, an offer increased bit by bit, never reached, never has reached, to the Gorges of the Adige; it excluded the Ampezzano—that Cortina d'Ampezzo to which our soldiers have now gloriously climbed (loud cheers)—under the pretence that we were dealing not with an Italian folk but with a Ladine<sup>1</sup> folk (laughter); as if the difference between Ladines and Italians was not infinitely less than between Ladines and Germans.

We did not aspire to the possession of that territory because of its economic importance, but because the Ampezzano, situated, as it is, this side of the Alps, prevented us from reaching the Gorges of the Adige, and left the gates of Italy open as before. An ingenuous document can be read in the Green Book which

<sup>1</sup> The descendants of an ancient Latin colony in Tirol who speak and read to-day a Latin dialect. The translator has seen hymn-books in Ladine in use among this interesting folk.



may be summarized as follows: "No, we can't give you that because it would spoil our military frontier." But we are not dealing with a defensive military frontier for Austria, but with an offensive military frontier in her hands against Italy.

A position in the Adriatic was wholly refused, and on the Adriatic no concession was even offered us—no, not even at the eleventh hour. And when we, with anguish in our hearts but believing that any and every effort should be made to avoid war—when we stooped to ask as a minimum that Trieste and a district round it should be considered, not as a part of the kingdom of Italy, but no longer a part of the Austrian Empire, and constituted a Free State, this was denied to us. And at Trieste we have been promised—what? Administrative autonomy. (Murmurs.)

Another and most important part of the matter in dispute was that concerning its execution. I wonder what you would have said, you Italians, what would our Parliament have said if we, your Government, had presented ourselves before you with the announcement that we were in complete agreement with Austria-Hungary, and that we were to

have a part of the Trentino and some other small strip of land not beyond the Isonzo—but only at the conclusion of peace. (Murmurs.) The “conclusion of peace”; then it was watered down by the offer, at the last moment, of the nomination of commissions which should study the boundary line; after that, ratification should follow; and after that, and within a month, the territories should be occupied.

#### NO VASSALAGE

But we are met with the assertion that we ought to have had no doubts as to the execution because there would be Germany's guarantee. (Murmurs.) Let us suppose that this guarantee was made with the full intention of carrying it out. Let us suppose that at the end of the war Germany would be in a condition to keep her word—which is by no means certain. (Murmurs.) What would our position have been after this agreement? There would have been a new Triple Alliance, a renewed Triple Alliance, but under far other and far inferior conditions than had existed before, because there would have been one sovereign State and two vassal States. (Murmurs.) The

day on which one of the clauses of the Treaty was not fulfilled, the day on which, whether after a brief period or whether after some years, the municipal autonomy of Trieste was broken by an Imperial decree or any Lieutenant's orders, of whom could we ask redress? Should we have to apply to our common superior—to Germany? (Laughter and murmurs.)

Now, gentlemen, I wish to say that it is not my intention to speak to you of Germany in other terms than those of admiration and respect. I am the Prime Minister of Italy, not the German Chancellor; and I do not quench the light of reason. (Loud applause.) But with all the respect due to learned, powerful, great Germany, that marvellous example of organization and resistance, I must say, in the name of my country—no vassalage; no protectorate under any one. The dream of a universal hegemony has been shattered. The whole world is risen up against it. The peace and civilization of humanity must in the future be based on respect for existing nationalities (loud cheers), among which great Germany must take her seat as an equal and not as a mistress. (Loud cheers.)

## THE CHANCELLOR'S INSULTS

But the most striking example of the overweening pride with which the men who direct the policy of the German Empire look down on other nations, is afforded by the picture which the Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg has drawn of the Italian political world. I will read it in a more complete form than that given by the newspapers, the form in which it reached us the day after. Here is what the Chancellor said of us:—

“Italian statesmen have played the same game with their people that they played against us.

“Doubtless the possession of territory where the Italian language is spoken at the north of the frontier has been the object of the dreams and desires of every Italian. But it is a fact that a great part of the Italian people and the majority of the Parliament would not hear of war. In the first days of May, according to the opinion of the best judge of Italian affairs (hilarious laughter) four-fifths of the Senate, two-thirds of the Chamber of Deputies, were still opposed to war. Among them,” continues the Chan-

cellor, "were to be found the most serious, the most authoritative statesmen. But the voice of good sense was no longer heeded; the mob alone reigned. With the benevolent toleration and the support of the chief members of a Cabinet gorged with the gold of the Triple Entente (loud laughter) the populace, led by unscrupulous *agents provocateurs* was goaded to bloody frenzy, threatening the King with a revolution and all the Moderates with assassination if they did not abandon themselves to the delirium of war. (Murmurs.) The Italians were deliberately allowed to remain in ignorance of the course of the negotiations with Austria and the extent of Austrian concessions, in suchwise that after the resignation of the Salandra Ministry no one could be found with courage enough to accept the charge of forming a new Cabinet. (Murmurs.) And in the course of the decisive discussions no member of the constitutional parties in the Senate or the Chamber attempted even to appreciate the value of the wide concessions made by Austria. In this war frenzy honest politicians became dumb, but when in the course of military operations, as we hope and desire, the Italian

people shall have recovered its good sense, it will recognize how lightheartedly it has been driven to participate in this world-wide war." (Loud murmurs.)

#### PRINCE VON BÜLOW'S MISTAKES

I know not, gentlemen, if it was the intention of this man, blinded with rage, personally to insult my colleagues and myself (if it were I should pass it by); men whose past you know; men who have served the State up to this advanced age; men of unblemished fame; men who are giving the lives of their sons to the country. (Loud applause.) But think not of us. Give heed rather to the atrocious insult which that scrap of vandal prose flings in the face of our King, in the faces of those same politicians who held an opinion different from ours. "All dumb," it is said: therefore all cowards. The information on which this judgment is based is attributed by the Chancellor of the Empire to him whom he calls "the best judge of Italian affairs."

Perhaps he is alluding, with a fraternal desire of shifting the responsibility on to his shoulders, to Prince von Bülow. Now, ladies

and gentlemen, I do not wish you to carry away an erroneous impression of Prince von Bülow's intentions. I do believe he had a real sympathy for our country, and that he has done everything in his power to bring about an understanding. (Murmurs.) But how great and how many are the errors he has made in translating his good intentions into actions! He supposed that Italy could be turned aside from her path by some few millions ill spent and by the influence of a few persons who have lost touch with the soul of the nation (hear, hear), by sinister contact, attempted, but I hope and believe unsuccessfully, with Italian politicians. (Loud cheers.) The very opposite was the result. An immense outburst of indignation flamed forth throughout the whole of Italy, and not only in the populace, but in the most educated classes; in the noblest breasts; in all those who felt the dignity of the nation; in the whole of our youth ready to shed their purest blood for the national ideals. (Cheers.) An outburst of indignation was kindled at the mere suspicion that a foreign ambassador should interfere between the Government, the Parliament, and the country. (Loud cheers.)

## THE SACRED FIRE

In this fiery indignation all internal discord melted away; the whole nation was fused together in a wondrous moral unity which will form our greatest strength in the hard struggle which lies before us, and which must lead us, not by benevolent concessions from others, but by our own integral virtue, to the achievement of the loftiest destinies of our country. (Loud cheers.) Yesterday a prince of the Church impressed on the clergy of his diocese that they must call forth a steadfast purpose, inspire the severest self-discipline and the sincerest love of our land, so that it shall become impossible for any one to excite discord in an hour when concord is our supremest duty. Yesterday we might discuss; to-morrow we may do so again: but not to-day. (Loud cheers.) And on the very same day the prefect of a noble city in the Emilia, where the Socialist party for a long time has been in the ascendant, telegraphed to me, in terms of deep emotion and breathing forth love of country, that volunteer cyclists were leaving for the front amid the enthusiasm of the whole population; and that at last, after a




period of nine years, the Tricolour waved over the Communal palace. (Loud cheers.) This moral unity, ladies and gentlemen, is unshakably manifested in the deeds of war as well as in the works of peace; in those who are fighting as in those who remain at home; in those who die as in those who survive. Having entered upon this great crisis we must not fall below other peoples, allies or enemies. All of us must answer the call; from our King, who—as the scions of the House of Savoy ever have been—is the interpreter of popular sentiment and of national aspirations; from our King, who is in the field, entrusting his august consort and his tender children to the people of Rome (loud cheers, and cries of “Long live the King!”), to the lowliest labourer in town or country; to our women, to our lads; each for all, all for each; all confident that by our supreme efforts we shall hand on to the generations that are to come an Italy more complete, more powerful, more honoured; an Italy who shall take her seat in the comity of nations, not as a vassal, not as a minor, but secure within her natural boundaries; an Italy who shall return to the fruitful rivalries of Peace, the champion, as she ever has been,

of liberty and justice in the world. (Loud cheers.)

Since destiny has assigned to our generation the tremendous and sublime task of translating into reality the ideal of a great Italy, whose achievement the heroes of the Risorgimento were fated not to behold, let us accept this task with an indomitable spirit ready to sacrifice our all to our country—to offer up ourselves; all that we are; all that we have. Before the Tricolor which waves over the field at the side of the sacred person of our King let all our banners incline; let all our hearts be strung in the concordant faith that under that flag we shall conquer. Long live Italy! Long live the King! (Loud and prolonged cheers, and cries of “Long live the King!”)

*Gaylord* 

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